AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended):   A medical image processing method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining image data representing an image recorded by radiography and image attendant information which is attendant upon the image data and includes information with respect to photographing condition of the image recorded by radiography;

(b) ~~obtaining~~ automatically selecting photographing information data representing photographing information to be displayed on a screen from a database on the basis of the information with respect to photographing condition of the image recording by radiography;

(c) selectively determining position and size on the screen in which the photographing information represented by the photographing information data ~~obtained~~ selected at step (b) is to be displayed; and

(d) adding the photographing information data to one of the image data and the image attendant information ~~which is attendant upon the image data,~~ and outputting the added data.

2. (currently amended):   A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein:

step (a) includes generating the image data by reading the image recorded by the radiography and generating the image attendant information including information with respect to photographing condition of the image recording by radiography~~; and~~

~~step (b) includes generating the photographing information data on the basis of photographing condition of the image in the radiography.~~

3. (currently amended):   A medical image processing method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein:

~~step (a) includes generating the image attendant information including information with respect to the photographing condition of the image in the radiography; and~~

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step (b) includes automatically selecting one kind of photographing information data from plural kinds of photographing information data <u>stored in said database</u> on the basis of the ~~image attendant~~ information <u>with respect tot photographing condition</u>.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended):   A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein:

step (a) includes receiving the image data representing the image recorded by the radiography and read by an image reader, and the image attendant information including information with respect to photographing condition of the image ~~in the~~ <u>recorded by</u> radiography~~; and~~

~~step (b) includes generating the photographing information data on the basis of the image attendant information~~.

6. (original):   A medical image processing method according to claim 5, wherein the image attendant information further includes information with respect to a size of the image and information with respect to rotation and/or inversion of the image.

7. (currently amended):   A medical image processing method ~~according to claim 1 further~~ comprising the steps of:

<u>(a)</u> converting a plurality of characters input in accordance with plural kinds of photographing condition into plural kinds of image data; ~~and~~

<u>(b)</u> ~~recording~~ <u>storing</u> the plural kinds of image data as plural kinds of photographing information data<u>;</u>

<u>(c) obtaining image data representing an image recorded by radiography;</u>

<u>(d)   selecting photographing information data representing photographing information to be displayed on a screen from said plural kinds of photographing information data;</u>

<u>(e) selectively determining position and size on the screen in which the photographing information represented by the photographing information data selected at step (d) is to be displayed; and</u>

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(f) adding the photographing information data to one of the image data and image attendant information which is attendant upon the image data, and outputting the added data.

8. (original): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) includes superposing the photographing information data into the image data in accordance with the position and the size on the screen determined at step (c), and outputting the superposed data.

9. (original): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) includes adding the photographing information data to the image attendant information and outputting the added data.

10. (currently amended): A medical image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of changing the photographing information data ~~obtained~~ selected at step (b).

11. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus comprising:

first means for obtaining image data representing an image recorded by radiography and image attendant information which is attendant upon the image data and includes information with respect to photographing condition of the image recorded by radiography;

second means for ~~obtaining~~ automatically selecting photographing information data representing photographing information to be displayed on a screen from a database on the basis of the information with respect to photographing condition of the image recorded by radiography;

third means for selectively determining position and size on the screen in which the photographing information represented by the photographing information data ~~obtained~~ selected by said second means is to be displayed; and

fourth means for adding the photographing information data to one of the image data and the image attendant information ~~which is attendant upon the image data,~~ and outputting the added data.

12. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

said first means generates the image data by reading the image recorded by the radiography and generates the image attendant information including information with respect to photographing condition of the image recorded by radiography; and

~~said second means generates the photographing information data on the basis of the photographing condition of the image in the radiography.~~

13. (currently amended):   A medical image processing apparatus according to claim ~~12~~ 11, wherein:

~~said first means generates the image attendant information including information with respect to the photographing condition of the image in the radiography; and~~

said second means automatically selects one kind of photographing information data from plural kinds of photographing information data stored in said database on the basis of the ~~image attendant~~ information with respect to photographing condition.

14. (cancelled).

15. (currently amended):   A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:

said first means receives the image data representing the image recorded by the radiography and read by an image reader, and the image attendant information including information with respect to photographing condition of the image ~~in the~~ recorded by radiography; ~~and~~

~~said second means generates the photographing information data on the basis of the image attendant information.~~

16. (original): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the image attendant information further includes information with respect to a size of the image and information with respect to rotation and/or inversion of the image.

17. (currently amended):   A medical image processing apparatus according ~~according to claim 11, further~~ comprising:

first means for converting a plurality of characters input in accordance with plural kinds of photographing condition into plural kinds of image data; ~~and~~

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second means for ~~recording~~ storing the plural kinds of image data as plural kinds of photographing information data;

third means for obtaining image data representing an image recorded by radiography;

fourth means for selecting photographing information data representing photographing information that is used to be displayed on a screen from said plural kinds of photographing information data;

fifth means for selectively determining position and size on the screen in which the photographing information represented by the photographing information data selected by said fourth means is to be displayed; and

sixth means for adding the photographing information data to one of the image data and image attendant information which is attendant upon the image data, and outputting the added data.

18. (original): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said fourth means superposes the photographing information data into the image data in accordance with the position and the size on the screen determined by said third means, and outputs the superposed data.

19. (original): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said fourth means adds the photographing information data to the image attendant information and outputs the added data.

20. (currently amended): A medical image processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for changing the photographing information data ~~obtained~~ selected by said second means.